1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4

That they may be able with the more certainty to

keep their appointment, they imitate the voice of some bird or beast, as agreed upon beforehand, from which one may know and discover the other. But this artifice must be warily adopted; for if at night-time they imitate the note of a bird which is only heard by day, the Spaniards know it to be uttered by the scouts of the savages, and by timely cautions elude the hostile attack. Often one companion signifies to another that he has arrived beforehand by broken boughs of trees, or high grass knotted in various ways. None perform the office of spy with more success than those Abipones who in their childhood have been taken in war, and bred up by the Spaniards, and who have returned to their countrymen when grown up; for, besides that they are actuated by a stronger hatred to the Spaniards, and a keener thirst for vengeance, from their acquaintance with places, and with the Spanish tongue, they dwell for a time with impunity in the Spanish towns, and as they use the same dress and language, are universally taken for Spaniards. Secure by this artifice, even in mid-day, and in the public market-place, they survey every thing, and enquire about whatever it is their interest to know; learn what military men are absent, or preparing for departure; what waggons are laden with

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CHAPTER XXXVI.

OF THE HOSTILE EXPEDITIONS, PROVISIONS, AND CAMPS OF THE ABIPONES.

It is a remarkable circumstance that the military 726
expeditions which they conclude upon when
intoxicated, they faithfully execute, at the
appointed time, when sober. Not only are they 726
destitute of almanacs, they even have no names 805
for the days and months. They know, however,
without the danger of mistake, on what day the
moon will begin, when it will be at full, and
when it will be on the wane. They use these
changes of the moon as a measure of time to
determine expeditions, so that though distant
many days' journey the parties assemble at the
appointed day, and even meet at the very
precise hour that had been agreed upon. For [201]
though they have no names for the hours, and no
machine to point them out, they supply these
deficiencies by their fingers, with which they
point to that part of the sky which the sun or
moon or some nightly star will occupy at the
period of meeting. When the moon is on 726
the wane, they generally judge it a fit time for
a journey, that they may set out under the cover